

# UNITING CHURCH COMPLEX



City of Darebin Heritage  
Review 2000



Map Ref: **18 G9**

NOT within Heritage Overlay Area.

City of Darebin Heritage Review 2000

## Location

Cnr High Street and Tyler Street, RESERVOIR, DAREBIN CITY

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO49

## Heritage Listing

Darebin City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### *What is significant?*

The Uniting Church (former Wesleyan Methodist Church) complex at 648-656 High Street, Reservoir. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

- the 1863 church and the 1902 additions including the interiors and the Fincham organ
- the bluestone cairn
- the brick Sunday School and Hall

Fencing and later additions to the church and hall are not significant.

### *How is it significant?*

The Uniting Church complex, Reservoir is of local historic, architectural, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Darebin.

### *Why is it significant?*

The Uniting Church complex is historically significant as an illustration of the strength of Methodist faith in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and illustrates the important role that the church played in the development of the Reservoir community. As the second Wesleyan church in the Preston district and the oldest surviving Wesleyan church in Preston the 1863 church is historically significant as evidence of the beginnings of Methodist worship in the City of Darebin. The church is also significant for its associations with Samuel Jeffrey. (Criteria A & H)

The Uniting Church complex is socially significant for its strong community associations because of its continuous use as a Wesleyan, and later Uniting, church over 140 years. (Criterion G)

Architecturally, the 1863 Church is significant as a fine example of the simple Early English Gothic style, which is representative of early church buildings in Victoria, particularly in rural areas. The complex as a whole has aesthetic significance for its landmark qualities due to its historic character and scale and siting of the church and other buildings on a prominent corner in Reservoir. (Criterion D & E)

The 1877 Fincham organ, transferred to the church in 1930, is historically significant for its associations with religious life in Victoria and for its associations with pioneer master organ-builder, George Fincham. It is one of the oldest surviving organs in Darebin and illustrates the continuing development of the church in the twentieth century. (Criteria A & H)

Construction dates	1863,
Other Names	Former Wesleyan Methodist Church,
Hermes Number	24273
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The original 1863 Wesleyan Church is a simple bluestone Gothic building with cream brick detailing to the arches of the lancet windows to the nave and the front elevation and along the top of the gable parapets. A shallow gabled porch projects in front of the gabled west elevation facing High Street. The 1902 transepts are constructed from red brick, with render dressings to the gable parapets and pinnacles, and have stepped corner buttresses. The steep pitched roof is covered with slate.

The interior of the church remains largely intact apart from the removal of some pews and carpeting. The choir loft and the Fincham organ are located in the transepts. The two front lancet windows contain stained glass panels.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*